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CENTRAL CHINA IMPROVES TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS;
SOUTHWEST RAILROADS HAVE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

RAIL, WATER TRANSPORTATION RESTORED -- Hua Shang Pao, 10 Sep 49

Han-k'ou, 8 September (NCHA) -- All of the People's governments in Central China are now engaging in large-scale reconstruction of their land and waterway transportation systems, and progress has been made in various places.

In regard to railroads, all the southern portion of the Pei-p'ing--Han-k'ou line, from Hsin-hsing south to Han-k'ou, has been in operation since August 1949, and from Han-k'ou to Cheng-chun, 10 trains a day are now running regularly. Between Hsin-hsing and Chu-ma-tien, a distance of 271 kilometers, damages were heavy and a total of 146 large and small bridges had to be repaired. On the Lien-yun--Lan-chou line, trains are now running between Lo-yang and Lien-yun; 68 bridges having been repaired in a distance of about 500 kilometers. The northern end of the Kuang-chou (Canton)--Han-k'ou line has been open for traffic as far south as P'u-ch'i since 1 August 1949. The entire length of the Han-ch'ang--Chiu-chiang line, except at Shan-hsia-tu where ferries are still needed to cross the river, is also opened for traffic. The Hang-chou--P'ing-hsiang line, between Hang-chou and Han-ch'ang has been open for traffic since 21 August 1949.

In regard to roads, of the total of 6,271 kilometers in Honan province, 2,041 kilometers, including 633 bridges, have already been repaired; and of the total of 4,300 kilometers in Hupeh province, 1,530 kilometers, including 70 bridges, have been repaired. In the Han-ch'ang area there are now 1,490 kilometers of passable roads, including the 300-kilometer main highway from Han-ch'ang south to Kan-hsien. In Hunan province, road repair is progressing rapidly, and so far, about 550 kilometers of roads between Ch'ang-sha and Ch'ang-te, and between Ch'ang-sha and Liu-yang, have been made passable.

Although damage was heavier to waterway transportation systems than to railroads, a total of 3,249 nautical miles of navigational routes between Han-k'ou, Sha-si, I-ch'ang, Nan-ching, Shang-hai, and Ch'ang-sha, and the Chiu-chiang to Nan-shang route, were made navigable during July and August 1949. Also the passenger boat services from Han-k'ou to Hsiang-yang and Fan-ch'eng, and Han-k'ou to Ch'ang-te, are again in operation.

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SOUTHWEST RAILROADS REORGANIZE -- Kung Shang Jih Pao, 12 Sep 49

Kuang-chou, 11 September -- After 3 months outstanding service as director of the T'ien-Han Railroads, T'ang Yu-tsung (Ueda: 2342, 2307, 8982) has resigned and been appointed by the Ministry of Communications to be in charge of the reorganization of the T'ien-Yueh (6433, 11471), the Ch'uan-Tien (47, 6433) and the Shu-K'un (1130, 4478) railroads. Representatives of the T'ien-Yueh Railroad, who flew from K'un-ming, reported to T'ang in Hong Kong that only about 200 kilometers of the lines were in operation i.e., the T'ien-Yueh as far as Pi-se-chai, and the Ch'uan-Tien as far as Ch'a-ching. Consequently there has been a great drop in railroad revenue and serious financial difficulties exist.

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